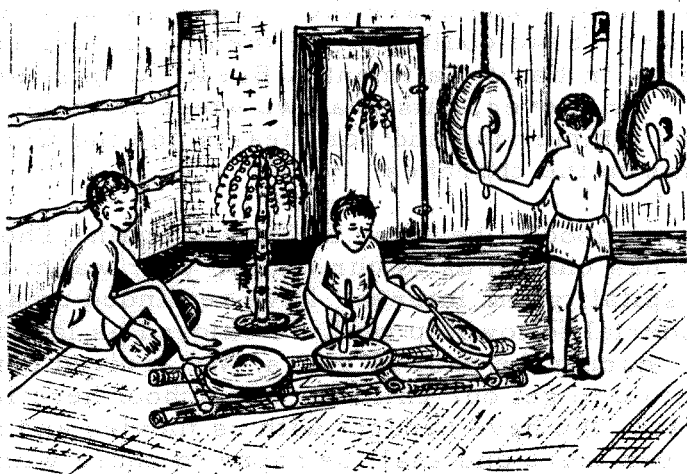


BORNEO

BULLETIN



MISSION ADDRESS

Regions Beyond Missionary
Union
5 Winlock Park,
Willowdale, Ont.,
Canada.

MISSIONARY ADDRESS

Rev. Elmer R. Warkentin
9299 Carlton St.,
Chilliwack, B. C.
Canada.

December 1970.

Dear Friends:

"The elders will meet after the morning service to decide who will provide the pig for the Christmas feast on the 26th. Every family will pay for their share of the pork with 15 lbs. of padi (rice) after harvest. The ladies will practise their song after Ladies' Meeting on Thursday afternoon. The young people are to discuss the purchase of prizes for the sports events on the 26th, after their meeting on Friday night. The church at Moro (3 1/2 hours by foot from here) invites us all to their celebrations and program on the 24th of Dec. Pendeta dan Njonja (Mr. and Mrs.) Warkentin will take several young people and elders with them to visit the other 7 churches in turn and share the Christmas festivities with them". These could well be the announcements in our church in Darit, Kalimantan Barat, at this time of the year. However, this year we won't be there to enjoy the many simple rice and pork feasts and the Christmas programs in the churches.

It's good to be home in Canada again. Tho the weather has chilled us to our bones, your warm friendship, hospitality and interest have reminded us again of the wonderful fellowship we have enjoyed as labourers together during the past 20 years. We arrived home just in time to get our children into school here in Chilliwack. We have brought with us movies and slides of the work there and shall be happy to share with you what the Lord is doing today in the hearts and lives of Dyaks, Chinese and Moslems in Kalimantan Barat.

Many people are asking about the revivals in Indonesia. We don't know about the validity of the mass revivals which reportedly took place in the eastern islands of the Republic, but it is true that hundreds of people are coming to the Lord every week in various parts of the country. It is not uncommon for 50-100 village Dyaks to accept the Lord Jesus after just one or two meetings. In one area about 30 miles from our station, accessible only by foot, several hundred responded to the invitation of the missionary in four days of meetings. The Dyaks there had waited for years for us to come, but we did not have enough workers to go around. Their sincerity was shown by their eagerness to burn all their skulls and fetishes which had bound them to their belief

in evil spirits and worship of the rice god. During the month of July one of our former Bible School graduates had the privilege of leading several hundred families to the Lord in one week-end of meetings in an area known as the "Mountain of Headhunters". Now, 4 months later, we still do not have a worker to place there to instruct these new believers.

Many of the 800 young people who gathered at our station for the annual Young People's Conference and Bible School graduation from July 30th to Aug. 2nd pleaded with us to send them teachers. Over and over again we heard the words, "But no one ever comes to our church or village to conduct meetings or teaching ministries. We have not had a missionary visit us for many years." They begged us to make our furlough as short as possible. Since we have come home we have received several letters from our co-workers and Bible School graduates emphasizing the ripe spiritual harvest.

The dominant note in all of these reports is the call for more workers. Can you imagine that the largest Regions Beyond Missionary Union station in Borneo is managed by two single ladies? They are now taking our place in the Bible School with its 70 students, managing the station and caring for the 8 churches in the immediate area. At another R. B. M. U. station one single lady is the lone medical nurse for that large area, treating approximately 200 patients a day. She also has the oversight of the only Christian High School and the Christian public school with over 400 students. It is also her task to see to it that the 9 churches in her district are cared for each Sunday. All this is managed by one single lady. Where are the men? Have people stopped praying? Have we been deluded by the philosophy that the heathen are better off left alone? Have we been tainted by the present belief that Missions are a thing of the past?

Our own children were moved with the need about them and during the past two years the older ones were actively engaged in work about the station and also in week-end ministries in the churches around, often doing the work of a missionary. As a result their studies suffered. Tho the children received good grades in what they did, some have an extra year to do. Loren is now in Prairie Bible Institute. The rest are with us

here in Chilliwack. Janet, Ellen and James are in High School and Douglas is in grade seven. Pray for them as they study with definite tugs in their hearts for their 'native' land, and also with a realization that they must work hard to make up for lost time.

Since our last letter you have stood faithfully with us to make the needed airstrip on our station a reality. For almost three months Loren shuttled the mile to the airstrip, often with the chain saw on back of the Honda. It almost looked hopeless when we began moving the 8 inches of top soil from the 1/2 mile-long strip. Even worse was the 25 foot-deep hill which had to be removed from the end. What we wouldn't have given to exchange the shovels and bamboo stretcher-like dirt carriers for a bulldozer! Some days as many as 150 men and women worked on the strip.

At the opening day of the airstrip thousands gathered to 'actually touch' the plane which they had seen fly over on several occasions and make drops of coffee, sugar and flour. Then three days later we were able to leave our station by plane to come home on furlough. The greatest joy, however, is to know that during our absence, the two single ladies will at least not have to spend days or weeks on the road bringing in the needed supplies for this large station. Thank you for all your prayers and gifts to make this possible.

We would love to hear from you. Now you don't have to worry that your letter might not reach us. Tell us of your family, your church and your business. Let us know that you are still standing with us in the work. Pray for Borneo and for us as a family.

We wish you a Selamat Hari Natal (Merry Christmas) dan Tahun Baru (Happy New Year).

Your Missionaries,

The Warkentins.